News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

Technical Information: (202) 691-5700
Media Contact: (202) 691-5902
Internet: http://www.bls.gov/emp

USDL 01-443
For release: 10 A.M. EST
Monday, December 3, 2001

BLS RELEASES 2000-2010 EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Projections for the American workforce covering 2000 to 2010 were issued today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, providing information on where future job growth is expected by industry and occupation and the likely composition of the work force pursuing those jobs.

The 10-year projections of employment by industry and occupation, labor force, and economic growth are widely used in career guidance, in planning education and training programs, and in studying long-range employment trends. These projections use the new Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.

The BLS projections were completed prior to the tragic events of September 11. While there have been numerous immediate economic impacts of this tragedy, the nature and severity of longer-term impacts remain unclear. At this time, it is impossible to know how individual industries or occupations may be affected over the next decade. BLS will continue to review its projections and, as the long-term consequences of September 11 become clearer, will incorporate these effects in subsequent analyses of industrial and occupational outlook.

Employment

Over the 2000-2010 period, total employment is projected to increase by 15 percent, slightly less than the 17 percent growth during the previous decade, 1990-2000. (The definition of employment used in these projections differs from those used in other BLS programs. See table 1.)

Industry Employment

- The service-producing sector will continue to be the dominant employment generator in the economy, adding 20.5 million jobs by 2010. Within the goods-producing sector, construction and durable manufacturing will contribute relatively modest employment gains.

- As employment in the service-producing sector increases by 19 percent, manufacturing employment is expected to increase by only 3 percent over the 2000-2010 period. Manufacturing will return to its 1990 employment level of 19.1 million, but its share of total jobs is expected to decline from 13 percent in 2000 to 11 percent in 2010.

- Health services, business services, social services, and engineering, management, and related services are expected to account for almost one of every two nonfarm wage and salary jobs added to the economy during the 2000-2010 period. These sectors account for 7 of the 10 fastest-growing industries. (See table 3a.)

Occupational employment

- Professional and related occupations and service occupations are projected to increase the fastest and to add the most jobs—7.0 million and 5.1 million, respectively. These two groups—on opposite ends of the educational attainment and earnings spectrum—are expected to provide more than half of total job growth over the 2000-2010 period. (See table 2.)

- Transportation and material moving occupations are projected to grow 15 percent, the same as the average for all occupations.

- Office and administrative support occupations are projected to grow more slowly than average, reflecting long-term trends in office automation. Production occupations should grow much more slowly than average because of advances in manufacturing technology.

- Eight of the 10 fastest growing occupations are computer-related, commonly referred to as information technology occupations. (See table 3b.)

- The 10 occupations adding the most jobs come from a wide range of occupational groups. (See table 3c.)

Education and training categories

- Employment in all seven education or training categories that generally require a college degree or other postsecondary award is projected to grow faster than the average across all occupations. These categories accounted for 29 percent of all jobs in 2000, but will account for 42 percent of projected new job growth, 2000-2010. (See table 4.)

- The four categories requiring work-related training are projected to grow more slowly than average, but will still add a substantial number of jobs.

Labor force

The civilian labor force is projected to increase by 17 million over the 2000-2010 period, reaching 158 million in 2010. This 12.0-percent increase is only slightly greater than the 11.9-percent increase over the previous decade, 1990–2000, when the labor force grew by 15 million. (See table 5.) The demographic composition of the labor force is expected to change because of changes in both the demographic composition of the population and in the rates of workforce participation across demographic groups.

- In 2010, the baby-boom cohort will be ages 46 to 64, and this age group will account for a substantial share of the labor force. The median age of the labor force will continue to rise, even though the youth labor force (aged 16 to 24) is expected to grow more rapidly than the overall labor force for the first time in 25 years.

- The labor force participation rates of women in nearly all age groups are projected to increase. The women's labor force will grow more rapidly than the men's, and the women's share of the labor force will increase slightly from 47 percent in 2000 to 48 percent in 2010.

- The labor force group, Asian and other, and the Hispanic labor force are projected to increase faster than other groups, 44 percent and 36 percent, respectively, because of high net immigration and higher than average fertility. The black labor force is expected to grow by 21 percent, more than twice as fast as the 9 percent growth rate for the white labor force.

- The share of the labor force will increase from 5 to 6 percent for the Asian and other group and from 11 to 13 percent for Hispanics. White non-Hispanics accounted for 73 percent of the labor force in 2000. Their share of the labor force in 2010 will decrease to 69 percent.

Notes

More detailed information on the 2000-2010 projections appears in four articles in the November 2001 issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. A graphic presentation of the highlights of the projections will appear in the forthcoming Winter 2001-02 *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*.

The *Monthly Labor Review* and *Occupational Outlook Quarterly* are sold by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The Review costs $43 a year; single copies are $13. The Quarterly costs $14 a year; single copies are $5.50. Make checks payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.